UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/912
20 November 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LUXEMBOURG TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 10 November 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union concerning the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg
to the United Nations

97-32965 (E) 201197 201197

/...

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 10 November 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union concerning the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

1. The European Union, recognizing the important role the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has to play in the region and in Europe, wishes to set out its policy clearly to the people of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

2. It is a policy based on a fair approach and equal opportunities for all the countries of the region.

3. The European Union wishes to see a Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that is peaceful, prosperous and democratic, one that has taken its rightful place in the European family. This will require the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to live up to the same standards as the rest of Europe.

4. Many of the countries in the European Union have faced economic problems similar to those that now beset the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It is wrong to believe that there are easy and simple solutions to the problems the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia faces. The lesson of the last 40 years is that it is by working together with other Europeans that economic well-being is most speedily restored.

5. The rhetoric of nationalism and ethnicity has no place in modern Europe. The policies that lie behind it have failed the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and brought its people to amongst the poorest in the region. Neither the European Union nor the international community is to blame for this.

6. The European Union urges cooperation with the international community to build a fully democratic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, enjoying a genuinely free press, with equality of opportunity for all, an open and modern economy that brings benefits to all and an impartial judicial system.

7. The European Union has the same expectations of all the countries in the region: full respect for democracy and human rights; a commitment to work for a just peace through implementation of the Dayton Agreement, including by full cooperation with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and the other accords that ended the war; good neighbourliness; and a constructive approach to solving the ethnic and minority problems of the region, in particular in Kosovo. Real progress in these areas would enable the European Union to develop further its relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

8. Together its people must choose how best to bring the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to its rightful and prosperous place in the community of nations.